

To: NDCAP Panelists
From: Emily Davis
Date: December 2, 2021
Subject: Materials and Notes for NDCAP Discussion on 12/6/2021

Dear NDCAP,

This memo contains meeting materials and notes for our meeting on December 6, 2021.

The agenda for that meeting includes a review of a draft budget for Panel expenses, a review of the Panel's public engagement, and an update from the Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee. In order for the Panel to have an informed discussion on these agenda items, it seems helpful and relevant to first review the Panel's Charge and purpose (see below). Doing so should also inform what guidance the Panel provides to the FNWP Committee for the next year.

1. PANEL CHARGE & PURPOSE

1. What is the Panel's Charge?

2016 NDCAP Charter

(<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/NDCAP/Amended%20NDCAP%20Charter%20%28Adopted%202016.05.26%29.pdf>)

- Charter, pg. 1: "The NDCAP is to serve as a conduit for public information and education, to encourage open communication and community involvement in matters related to the decommissioning process of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS), and to receive written reports and presentations on the decommissioning of the Station at its regular meetings."

2. What are the Panel's Duties?

NDCAP's enabling statute (18 V.S.A. § 1701)

(<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/034>)

"The Panel shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not have authority to direct decommissioning of the VYNPS. The duties of the Panel shall be:

(1) To hold a minimum of four public meetings each year for the purpose of discussing issues relating to the decommissioning of the VYNPS. The Panel may hold additional meetings.

(2) **To advise the Governor, the General Assembly, the agencies of the State, and the public on issues related to the decommissioning of the VYNPS, with a written**

report being provided annually to the Governor and to the energy committees of the General Assembly.

(3) To serve as a conduit for public information and education on and to encourage community involvement in matters related to the decommissioning of the VYNPS and to receive written reports and presentations on the decommissioning of the Station at its regular meetings.

(4) To periodically receive reports on the Decommissioning Trust Fund and other funds associated with decommissioning of or site restoration at the VYNPS, including fund balances, expenditures made, and reimbursements received.”

2. NDCAP's DRAFT BUDGET

NDCAP first discussed this topic on September 20, 2021. In that meeting, the Panel identified some ideas of “reasonable and necessary” Panel expenses would be, and said that it would revisit the conversation in December 2021.

As a reminder, the Panel now has funds available from the owners of Vermont Yankee after the recent update to our enabling legislation (34 V.S.A. § 1700). The language of § 1700(g)(6) now reads that the Commissioner of Public Service shall:

“hire experts, contract for services, and provide for materials and other reasonable and necessary expenses of the Panel as the Commissioner may consider appropriate on request of the Panel from time to time. Funds for this purpose shall come from the owners of the Vermont Yankee site as the Commissioner of Public Service may consider appropriate, not to exceed \$35,000.00 annually.”

Below are some preliminary ideas of what Panel expenses may be covered by this new funding:

1. Website: \$7,500-10,000 for website redesign.
 - Contract for services?
 - Need to confirm feasibility with DPS.
2. BCTV meeting broadcast: \$300/meeting.
 - Extra funding for BCTV to host and broadcast meeting over Zoom (if Teams is actually a tech barrier for folks).
 - *“Microsoft Teams is used mostly by mid-sized companies and large enterprises, likely due to its inclusion with the Office 365 suite. Zoom, on the other hand, is popular with businesses of all sizes, likely due to its low barrier to entry and emerging ubiquity as a go-to video chat solution.”*
([Source: Zoom v. Teams](#)).
3. Speaker fees: \$5,000
 - Funding/honoraria for speakers to present to the full Panel.
 - In lieu of conference fees and expenses for individual Panelists.
4. Public Engagement: Any extra funding needed to support the Panel’s communication with the public?
 - Are the Panel’s public engagement goals being met?
 - Do we need more information to answer this question? Would a survey be worthwhile?
5. Other expenses?
 - If other expenses arise, what is the process to have those approved by the DPS?
 - Do all expenses need to be predetermined in an NDCAP budget?

3. NDCAP's CURRENT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Currently, NDCAP communicates and engages with the public through its meeting notices, which are sent to two email lists (news organizations and a "public interest" list). The public can also see Panel notifications on State websites, and watch the BCTV broadcasts of the meetings.

1. Meeting notices (primary public outreach)
 - a. DPS contact list to news organizations
 - b. ~220 unique emails (with redundancies to same organization)
 - c. Bulk of the distribution is to Vermont-based organizations
 - d. Notices are also sent to a few regional news outlets including New England Cable News and several Albany-area radio and television stations
2. "Public interest" contact list
 - a. NDCAP distribution list of individuals who have requested notification of upcoming Panel and Committee meetings
 - b. ~55 email addresses on the list
 - c. Most are people who attend Panel meetings on a regular basis
3. Website posts/notifications
 - a. Posting notices on Panel website
 - b. Official press release published on the Department's main webpage
 - c. Postings on the State Library's website (satisfies an Open Meeting Law requirement for Special and Emergency meetings).
4. BCTV meeting recordings